



Experiential Learning

In OKA+ Schools experiential learning:

- is grounded in arts-based instruction
- is a creative process
- acknowledges entry points
- includes differentiated instruction
- provides multi-faceted assessment opportunities

Experiential Learning

Experiential learning is the process of making meaning from direct experience.¹ Aristotle said, “For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”² David A. Kolb helped to popularize the idea of experiential learning drawing heavily on the work of John Dewey and Jean Piaget.

Experiential learning is learning through reflection on doing, which is often contrasted with rote or didactic learning. Experiential learning is related to action learning, cooperative learning, and service learning.³

1. Itin, C. M. (1999). Reasserting the Philosophy of Experiential Education as a Vehicle for Change in the 21st Century. *The Journal of Experiential Education*, 22(2), 91-98.
2. Bynum, W.F. and Porter, R. (eds) (2005) *Oxford Dictionary of Scientific Quotations*. Oxford University Press. 21:9.
3. Itin, C. M. (1999). Reasserting the Philosophy of Experiential Education as a Vehicle for Change in the 21st Century. *The Journal of Experiential Education*, 22(2), 91-98.

Learners need connection to their learning, a context and a purpose for why they are learning any content, and opportunity for reflection to order and personalize what they have learned. Service learning is a powerful tool to contextualize learning, give greater purpose to experiential learning, and teach civic responsibility.